

Tape 28

Side A, 2 1/16 - 2 1/8

7 JUL 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR:

[Redacted]

FROM:

DCI

At the reception for the [Redacted] I made the mistake of
saying to the [Redacted] /^d enjoy talking with him. When I left he
reminded me of that and said he would call the office. If he does, we'll
have to take him on for a few minutes sometime.

Xerox copy to addressees

Khomeini faces facts?

In Iran, talk of Western conspiracies — generally involving the CIA — flourishes like crabgrass in late summer. Iranians are not the only people who blame others for their own problems, but they are among the most persistent practitioners of the habit.

To be sure, the American CIA has a long and dubious record of intervention in the internal affairs of Iran and other countries. But, unless the CIA is more diabolically effective than is likely, it is not responsible for most of Iran's current problems: separatism in Kurdistan, economic deterioration, the political feud between President Abolhassan Bani-Sadr and the

Islamic fundamentalists led by Ayatollah Mohammed Beheshti.

Some of these facts may be dawning on the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. In a speech the other day, Khomeini warned that Iran is in "chaos," and he told Bani-Sadr and Beheshti to bury the hatchet. It was the first time Khomeini has admitted that the Iranian revolution is threatened by problems of its own making.

Khomeini is no one's candidate for Statesman of the World, but if he is beginning to realize that Iran's problems won't be solved by blaming everything on the United States, "the great Satan," he will be more worthy of the respect that Iranians accord him.